farmers to enable them to adopt modern technology and improved agricultural practices for increasing agricultural production and productivity.

The incidents of suicide by farmers, as reported by the State Governments, do not indicate increasing trend in recent times.

In order to improve the flow of institutional credit and reduce dependence of farmers on informal sources of credit including private money lenders, the Government of India on 18th June, 2004 announced a special farm credit package. The package envisages that credit to agriculture sector from institutional sources will double in next three years. The package is applicable for the whole country.

(e) No such instances have been reported.

Production of foodgrains, pulses and oilseeds

†412. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the productivity of foodgrains, pulses and oilseeds in our country is very low in comparison to China and other leading countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to provide modern equipments, biological manures and soft loans to the small farmers for scientific cultivation;

(d) whether Government propose to adopt the methodology of China in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(0 if not, whether Government would formulate any package for small farmers to enhance the agricultural production and to remove their economic backwardness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANITLAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The productivity of foodgrains, pulses and oilseeds in our country is very low in comparison

†Originai notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to China and other leading countries. Crop-wise details of yields in leading countries are given in the Statement (See below).

The reasons behind low productivity, among others, are predominant rainfed conditions, low seed replacement ratio and short maturity periods.

(c) Technologically advanced agricultural/horticultural equipments are being demonstrated at farmers' fields in order to disseminate latest know-how on mechanization aspect in crop production system under a Central Sector Scheme 'Promotion and Strengthening of Agricultural Mechanization through Training, Testing and Demonstration' being operated by the Government. Also, assistance in the form of subsidy @ 25% of the cost subject to approved ceilings is available to farmers for purchasing different farm equipment under the Macro Management Scheme. A National Project on organic farming has been taken up since October, 2004 for production, promotion and market development of organic farming in the country. The main components of the project are capacity building through service providers, financial assistance, training programme, field demonstration, market development and promotion of organic farming.

A Comprehensive credit policy had been announced by the Government on 18th June, 2004 containing measures for doubling agriculture credit flow in the next three years and provision of debt relief to the farmers affected by natural calamities. The policy, *inter-alia,* includes credit flow to agriculture sector to increase @30% per year, debt restructuring in respect of farmers in distress, special 'one time settlement scheme' for settling the old and chronic loan accounts of small and marginal farmers and permission to banks to finance for redeeming the loans taken by farmers from private money lenders.

(d) and (e) No such proposal.

(f) In order to enhance agricultural production the following are under implementation in the country as Centrally-sponsored scheme under Macro Management of Agricultural (MMA) *viz.* Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice), ICDP-Wheat and ICDP-Coarse Cereals. The Government is also implementing a Centrally-sponsored scheme *i.e.,* "Integrated scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPPM)" from 1st April, 2004 to increase their production and producivity. Other steps include:

- Production of high quality breeder seeds has been increased.
- Steps to evolve appropriate crop management practices, development of commercially viable hybrid technology for achieving higher yield in various crop/agro-ecologies.
- Assistance to the State Governments under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 for expenditious completion of irrigation projects.
- With a view to ensuring remunerative prices to the growers for their produce and encouraging higher investment and production, the Government announces each season Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for major agricultural commodities.

Statement

Countrv-wise yield of selected crops in the year 2005*

Cereals

Country	Yield (Kg. Hectare)
India	2367
China	5171
United States	6454
Russian Federation	1885
Indonesia	4312

Soyabean

Country	Yield (Kg. Hectare)
India	957
United States	2872
Brazil	2192
Argentina	2729
China	1779

Notes: Cereals includes rice, wheat and coarse cereals.

Pulses

Country	Yield (Kg. Hectare)
India	612
China	1887
Canada	1976
Brazil	802
Myanmar	951

Rapeseed

Country	Yield (Kg. Hectare)
India	941
China	1808
Canada	1639
Germany	3463
France	3649

Groundnut in Shell

Country	Yield (Kg. Hectare)
India	894
China	2958
Nigeria	1020
United States	3249
Indonesia	2042

Sunflower Seed

Country	Yield (Kg. Hectare)
India	617
Russian Federation	1181
Ukraine	1283
Argentina	1926
China	1705

Source: FAO Website.
*Corresponds to Agriculture Year 2004-05.

Grameen Bhandaran Yojana

413. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have started a scheme called Grameen Bhandaran Yojana for construction of rural godowns in the country;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of the above scheme;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are not going to extend any financial assistance or otherwise to rural individuals or corporations, etc; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not extending financial assistance to rural individuals or corporations who wish to construct godowns in the rural areas for grain storage purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has launched a Central Sector Scheme namely, "Grameen Bhandaran Yojana", a Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Renovation of Rural Godowns *w.e.f.* 01.04.2001.

(b) The aims and objectives of the scheme include creation of scientific storage capacity with allied facilities in rural areas to meet the requirements of farmers for storing farm produce, processed farm produce and agricultural inputs; promotion of grading, standardization and quality